

# FRS News



"FRS-News" - under this name we provide you with the latest FRS-Holland news.

We aim to optimize the information towards our listeners. Not only you but also me as a radio station benefit from this. We can supply you with info regarding our previous broadcast(s) and inform about future plans. The latter will certainly mean (at least we hope) more listeners tune in to future broadcasts as you are informed ahead of the broadcast! This Newsheet enables us to tell you what's going on. The advantage is we don't need to repeat the same info in each personal letter. Everyone dropping us a line receives this general Newsheet for free and in addition you receive some personal notes as well providing you took the trouble to include some personal notes in your letter as well. In other words: we'd love some personal info, criticism, comments etc. rather than

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 27

OCTOBER 2004

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few tests, we haven't been on air with regular trms since May 30th. Hopefully all of you do like the FRS Studio Series! Let us know... Make sure you collect all four to complete this unique FRS Studio Series! Let's first look at the previous broadcast. Let's go back in time to May 30th 2004.

## FRS Broadcasting Activities

Following a 6 months' silence FRS-Holland took to the airwaves Whit Sunday May 30th 14.00-16.00 UTC. It was our debut transmission via this powerful Latvian outlet. The advantage of using 9290 is clear: you are able to provide an excellent signal in all corners of Europe and in addition wide areas beyond. Perhaps time to look for an alternative for our slogan "From London to Berlin and Oslo to Munich... this is FRS-Holland playing 4 decades of music." Three pps were aired: FRS Magazine, Off Beat and the Frank Carson Show. As it was only a 2 hour broadcast, the FRS Magazine show presented by Peter V. contained a number of DX items. No doubt it was an excellent signal that day. From what we've heard from the listening audience, many were pleasantly surprised to hear FRSH on 9290 guaranteeing superb reception. Even on small portable (and often not very sensitive) transistor radios, the signal was booming in! A satisfactory number of letters has been received both via E-mail and snailmail. Some of them will be handled elsewhere in this FRS News edition. All in all we were (are) very happy about FRS' 9290 debut.

## FRS-Holland Jingle CD

Early 2000 we introduced the FRS Jingle CD. Ever since numerous CDs were sent to people all over Europe. We received very positive and enthusiastic response... The FRS Jingle CD covers digitalized stuff covering almost 20 years of FRS jingling divided into eight sections. It starts with the early 80s and ends with the millennium set produced in 1999. 226 jingles for only € 13.50 / \$ 9.00 / USD 15.00. You can send the money cash to our maildrop: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG in Herten, the Netherlands. A great asset to your jingle collection...the FRS-Holland Jingle CD. In case you are interested: we do offer a special Jingle CD info-sheet. Or order the info via Email. Quick and easy.

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome along in the Autumn 2004 FRS News edition. Many of you who haven't received the initial re-styled edition (May 2004) will hopefully like the new look! Perhaps a good moment for a potted history: this small newsletter was first published under the name FRS Newsletter in January 1993. After 14 editions, the name was changed to FRS News. That was in 1997. The FRS Newsletter was continued for subscribers only and its content changed from covering FRS-Holland to emphasizing on Free Radio News. Where the FRS Newsletter ended, FRS News continued informing the listening audience with news from the Free Radio Service Holland. In the mean time the FRS Newsletter is no more.

After 7 years, the final edition # 39/40 was published in December 2003. What is left is FRS News which will certainly continue as it is a very important means of

communication between FRS-Holland and you, the listener! Talking of communication or better: improving it... starting with this issue, we will start two new columns. From now on we'll publish a collection of the letters/ E-mails which were received via our Herten "2702" maildrop. We think that's a good idea. Give us your opinion. And: we will go back in time with a flashback to a particular month/year including one of our broadcasts, SW news etc. This item is also included in future editions of FRS Magazine presented by Peter Verbruggen. Any ideas which might benefit FRS News are more than welcome, you can contact us via POBox 2702 or of course the easiest & fastest way: via E-mail.

## FRS-HOLLAND NEWS

We say hello to both "old" & "new" friends of FRS-Holland. Apart from

## Brandnew FRS QSL Series

Since November FRS-Holland is offering it's listeners a brandnew and unique QSL-Series under the name "The FRS Studio Series". The station has carefully prepared a very unique series of different QSL-cards. Each QSL represents a different view of the main FRS-Holland recording studio. You can collect this complete FRS Studio Series consisting of 4 full colour photo QSLs by sending in reports for four consecutive trms. This excellent series is a collector's item to any SW Free Radio enthusiast! QSL #4 is issued for the upcoming 24th Birthday transmission in November. If you haven't got the ones already issued, don't worry! You will receive #1, 2 or 3.

## FRS on air November 2004

November 14th will see new FRS activity. The station will celebrate its 24th birthday with a 3+ hour broadcast once again via the 9290 outlet. We will start at 09.00 UTC sharp. Perhaps some of you are eager to know why we will once again use the 9290 outlet? First of all 9290 guarantees good reception and most important, it will do justice to the lengthy preparations for the pos. What is meant is that for instance last year—November 2003—when we were celebrating our 23rd birthday, we had to deal with poor reception propagation for most of the broadcast. Certainly annoying and disappointing knowing how much work and money was invested to make it a successful event. Although we used "enough power" this was not sufficient to deal with the poor propagation that Sunday. In fact we may conclude the total investment and the actual "yields" were not in balance. Nowadays very few SW stations are putting out a well-considered programme formula, no doubt FRS-

Holland is one of them. And looking at the number of broadcasts FRS carry out, it is important that our signal gets out very well. As simple as that... we want to spread our message among as many listeners as possible. And by using 9290, this aim is certainly achieved. And not only this... we are

### "Using 9290 also means tapping new audiences"

reaching new and far greater audiences, new listeners. FRS is very dedicated spreading its wings over brandnew areas reaching new and a greater number listeners producing *pos* worth while to listen to. Reading out letters, including Free Radio news, including programme items. Stations with a format. Things would be different if we were able to broadcast more often. But let's face reality: that is not the case. Unlike some colleagues, we cannot switch on a tx whenever we'd like to. And there's another point. One of FRS-Holland's jingles says: "SW radio is two-way traffic". When less and less listeners take the trouble to write, it will become one-way traffic. Dedicated programme-makers do need the

response from the audience. Otherwise the enthusiasm to produce quality *pos* will disappear. We think a first-class signal will urge more listeners to write... A better response should be very encouraging!! And the good old listenership will be reached in the best-ever quality!! This does not mean that we won't use our own transmitting equipment anymore.

But it certainly is a challenging and hopefully successful way of trying something new and different. One final remark: the situation in the Netherlands when carrying out longer broadcasts still is quite risky. And that restricts the possibilities within our own country.

### FRS JINGLE ARCHIVED COMPLETED

When FRS started back in 1980, a complete jingle package was introduced. Ever since FRS has built up a good reputation when it comes to.... jingles. On a very regular basis new and fresh jingles were added to the existing ones. New production

## SOON NEW SET of FRS JINGLES

tools were used and Joop ter Zee and Peter Verbruggen formed a good team producing literally hundreds of FRS jingles. Already many years ago Peter Verbruggen started transferring all jingles from the old tapes & cassettes to MiniDisc. A very tough job. From each FRS jingle being digitalized, a description has been made which is stored in our computer. The same has been done with the numerous promos which were produced over the years.

But there's more... a comprehensive archive containing production elements—professional soundeffects and music beds—has been recorded on MiniDisc enabling easy use for future productions. By now a brandnew set of liners has been recorded in the USA by our "home voice-over" Nolan. His liners will be mixed with production elements finishing up a new set of FRS jingles, the first one since 2004. In addition a number of new German jingles will be introduced. Good old Johnny Best was responsible for these ones (doing the voice-overs). So...soon new & fresh FRS jingles, productions....

**Do you have an E-mail address? Make sure to send us your E-mail address. By storing it in our comprehensive address book, you will be assured of receiving important updates/ the latest news on FRS-Holland.**

## 24th FRS Birthday on 9290 with 100 kW

### Mailbox 2702

By Peter Verbruggen

First of all everyone taking the trouble to drop us a line following the May 30th 2004 broadcast. One of our loyal listeners is Gerwin Schutte from Berlin. "First of all thanks a lot for the QSL. Your 9290 outlet provided excellent reception. Your *pos* were super. Will there be more 9290 broadcasts?" Thanks

Gerwin. And your question is already answered. "Many thanks for QSLs #1 and 2. Usually I don't tune in to 9290. Because the 48 mb was empty, I decided to listen to FRS on 9290. A pity it were only 2 hours. To be honest: I was a bit disappointed. The

legal radio news in FRS Magazine was too long while the SW Free Radio News section was too short. In

addition not much time was spent on the listeners' letters. And: all music played in Off Beat and FRS Magazine was unknown to me. Was the programme formula changed because of reaching new audiences?" writes Norbert Schaefer from Berlin. Well Norbert, I can assure we haven't changed our music policy. The fact we played "unknown music" must be a coincidence.

*FRS-Holland, not just a station but a tradition*

Our music policy is aimed at playing both *familiar* and *alternative* tracks. Besides: that Sunday there was no separate DX programme, so it was decided to include a number of DX items in FRS Magazine. Of course I try to focus on the SW Free Radio news but the question is: are there always enough interesting news items? According to me not in May. And the World of Radio is broader than only SW Free Radio. Listen out in November and you will hear once again a comprehensive SW column in what almost seems to be the only DX Show in SW FR land these days. One other interesting subject is whether or not the stations on 9290 can be called Free Radio stations. I know that in the past lengthy discussions have been taking place about this subject. To my humble knowledge, Free Radio stations are 1) non-political and 2) non-religious and are 3) not controlled by the government. That's what we are and that's what we will remain! Does it make a difference whether a signal is coming from our own tx (which we still have and will use in future!) or via a relay? Or to put it differently: will a dedicated FRS listener listen with "other ears" when he realizes the output coming out of his SW receiver is not from a FRS transmitter but from another one? Yes, I know: than there's still a difference between say a relay via a pirate station or a legal powerhouse. No doubt about that. But still I feel we are a Free radio station because of the aforementioned conditions. I don't think that being a Free Radio station, you must be illegal at the same time. For me it is important what the listener hears through his speakers. Whether FRS is doing a broadcast via 9290, via an illegal European relay or via its very own outlet, the feel of our pxx remains the same. It won't affect our programme philosophy. I do understand that when putting out your very own shows with your own transmitter, there is a greater involvement. A kind of higher Free Radio degree. But

when it happens to be difficult using your own rig for whatever reason(s), you have to look for other opportunities. If we had better chances to carry out our own shows, we would certainly do so! Please realize renting the 9290 outlet costs quite a lot of money. We do it for you, the listener! I hope Norbert that your decision to tune in to FRS is ruled by the quality/content of our pxx and by the knowledge you have an enjoyable Sunday morning, afternoon or even evening! No doubt I appreciate your opinion. Perhaps our upcoming broadcast will change your mind. Any listeners willing to get involved in this discussion are

invited to respond!!

Andreas Fessler from Dresden, Germany writes: "On Sunday May 30th I heard your wonderful shows on 9290 but only the last 30 minutes. Reception was very good."

"Very good music and interesting infos in your shows" writes Peter Vaegler from Stralsund, Germany.

A welcome surprise was the letter we received from our good friend Thorsten Brandenburg living in Munich, Germany. Thorsten is a long-time FRS listener but we did not hear from him for a very long time. "Yes, long time ago. Many things have changed in my life and often there was hardly not as much time as I would like to spend on the hobby. After sickness I have started working less and do hope there will be more time for the hobby again. Today I have been listening to your great programme on 9290. I think it is not a shame to use strong relays these days. Most important of all is the programme and not the transmitter. And it makes more fun to listen to the programme if the quality is good. I remember the early 80s when when the FRS reception on 41 metres was strong and clear with only a few watts." Many thanks for your letter Thorsten. We are very happy you haven't forgotten FRS. I certainly do agree with your opinion (as already stated earlier in this mail column). I (and all the others at FRS) sincerely hope you are bursting with

health and we are looking forward receiving more letters from you! Take good care of yourself Thorsten.....

We'll take the German Zug and travel to Ludwigshafen, the home of yet another loyal FRS supporter

Felix Schäfer. "Thank you very much for your reply on my last letter. Your letters always are personal and interesting. I especially appreciate the FRS News info-sheet. That's really compact

informative. I listened to the whole of the two hours via Lötvie. It was a great experience to listen to your pxx in really excellent sound quality. It was big fun to listen to the music which was professionally presented. I'd rather prefer to have more music shows if you broadcast with such high power. Should it be more convenient to have the DX News via a website? But don't stop to send out real QSL cards and letters. That's one thing the Internet can't offer. And a well-presented music show is one thing which is getting rare. So...keep on rocking. You really do a good job."

Well Felix, we are really flattered with your encouraging and positive remarks. For many people FRS Goes DX is a welcome source of information. Our slogan is "A balance between Music & Information" and we'd like to continue this way. If you look at the quantity of DX News it is 20 to 25% of our total output. The rest is music and of course letters and items. For us the music really is very important and each presenter is carefully selecting his records for a show. But we feel there's more than music. For that reason we have decided to include a few items within the pxx. In the upcoming FRS Magazine, there's a flashback to November 1983. And music is a vital part of that show! We certainly agree that QSLs and personal letters are a vital part of the communication between station and its listeners!!

Johan Ruff from Mühlheim says "it was a good idea: FRS on 9290. Very good reception quality and as usual a really good and interesting FRS Show. Two enjoyable hours behind my receiver."

SW FREE RADIO IS TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

By crossing The Channel, we go to Letcham, south-west of London. It's the home of Nicholas Sharpe who's one of our most loyal British listeners. "A very strong and stable signal. A great improvement on my effort for the v21st December 2003. Finally I'd also like to comment on the FRS News which was an interesting read." "It was the first time that I was able to listen to your program in decent conditions" writes Silver Gomez. "It was a pity there was no DX time". Well Silver, as all went in a hurry there was not really time enough for preparing the DX Show (which usually costs 6 to 8 hours). But next broadcast there's plenty of DX News...so tune in! "I was very happy to tune in to FRS on Sunday May 30th. I sure did like the transmission. In front of me the FRS Newsletter from Sept. 27th 2000. Your Joop ter Zee tribute has really moved me. Now you have a new team including Frank & Mark. I wish you all the best." Thank you very much Oscar Schmitt in Hamburg, Germany. An unexpected letter came from Joachim Tegeler from Osnabrück, Germany. Unexpected because Joachim hasn't been a regular writer to our broadcasts in recent years. He was a long-time member of FRS Goes DX/FRS Newsletter. "I regret the end of the FRS Newsletter because it was my only and last opportunity to get informations on the Free Radio scene. I sold my SW receiver a few years ago, nevertheless I am interested in the past and present developments of Free Radio. Sometimes I look at my former correspondence with the stations. The first reply letter of FRS was written by Joop ter Zee in 1980 - about 24 years ago! It's really astonishing that FRS will celebrate its 24th birthday! I have had some delightful times of listening to FRS and reading your newsletter in the past. So please accept the enclosed banknote for future activities of FRS." What can I say? I am really honoured to read your letter and must thank you for your financial backing. We will use it for future broadcasts. By the way, if you have a little transistor radio with SW reception, you should be able to pick up us next November. And: although my spare time is limited and realizing I must do a lot of things which were done by the late Joop ter Zee, I am determined to create a good-looking FRS website with not only FRS-Holland elements but also updated Free Radio news. Thanks a lot Joachim. "Very strong signal. Programme was as good as it ever was. Greetings from Cologne (Köln)." Thanks Thomas Drecher. By the way: Thomas is one of very first listeners writing in to FRS. He was one of the three persons who sent us a report for a July 1980 test, some 6 weeks before our official launch!

## FACT FILE *Flashing back to November 1983*

Date: November 20th 1983

Time: 09.00- 15.00 UTC

FRS-Holland Broadcast #40

Following the raid earlier that year (January 16th), this broadcast was the first one using a new programme formula. And: it was the first time FRS was relayed over the powerful tx of Radio Delmare positioned in Belgium. The broadcast went out on 6205 kHz with 1.4 kW.

The programme schedule was (in UTC):

- 08.54 Opening
- 09.02 FRS Magazine (new show) co-presented by Peter V. & Joop ter Zee
- 09.45 FRS Gold-Barry Stephens
- 11.15 FRS Goes DX: Peter Verbruggen
- 12.00 Musical Express co-presented by Fred van Es & Bert van Leer
- 12.45 Free Radio Spot (in Nov. 1983 Radio Jackie London)
- 13.15 Sounds Alternatives-Joop ter Zee
- 14.00 Int. Listeners' Letter Show part 1 Peter V. & Chris
- 14.30 German Service-Danny Kay \*
- 15.15 Int. Listeners' Letter Show part 2 Peter V. & Chris
- 15.45 Station Info (Peter V.)
- 16.00 Close Down

More info: November 20th 1983 the new German presenter Danny Kay\* would be making his debut on FRS-Holland replacing Michael. But his tape arrived too late and unfortunately could not be included in the new programme line-up of that month. His debut would now be in December during the FRS X-Mas tm. January 1984 would see the first complete new programme line up including Danny Kay's German Service & the new FRS Goes Nuts produced by Joop ter Zee. Also FRS Magazine was a new FRS Show presented by Peter & Joop. And Fred van Es, presenting the Musical Express from the beginning, got company from Bert van Leer.

## FRS Sales Productions

Order our booklet with hundreds of hours of recordings from Sea to Satellite. Send 2 IRCs or two Euro / two US dollar to the Herten maildrop. FRS Sales Productions offers SW Free Radio, Offshore Radio, satellite, Documentaries, Jingles, Landbased pirate radio but also legal stations from all over the world. We offer attractive discounts!

*FRS November 1983 compilation*

A sixty minute compilation in good quality on CD, cassette or MD from our November 1983 broadcast (for more info see Fact File). Price: 5 Euro.

Radio Caroline Andy Archer 15.10 - 17.00 Oct. 1983. Caroline in its first month following the return on 319 m from the MV Ross Revenge. A very tight programme format, great radio in force 9 gales! Fine AM quality. Price: 7 Euro (CD, cassette or MD).

Radio Northsea Int. August 31st 1974 - the final day on short wave.

- 09.00-11.00 AJ Beiers
- 11.00-12.00 Peter & Werner Hartwig
- 12.00-13.00 Pierre Desayn
- 13.00-15.00 Peter & Werner Hartwig
- 15.00-17.00 Pierre Desayn
- 17.00-19.00 AJ Beiers

Price per hour 4 Euro. Three hours 10 Euro, six hours 18 Euro and 10 hours for only 27 Euro.

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A NAME TO REMEMBER !!!!**